Visits by Chief Ministers of States to foreign Countries to Secure NRI Investments in India

384. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Chief Ministers of States have visited foreign countries during the last six months to secure NRI investments in India;

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange spent by them during these foreign visits; and

(c) how much NRI investments have actually been secured as a result of these visits?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) During the last six months (i.e. 1st January 1990 to 30th June, 1990), Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala went abroad for exploring the possibilities of NRI investments in their respective States.

(b) The Chief Ministers were released admissible foreign exchange at the prescribed scales.

(c) The visits were exploratory and promotional in nature and it is not possible to quantify the likely investments as a result of the visits.

Decline in Exports

385. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of exports from India during the last six months;

(b) what were the figures of exports during the corresponding period last years;

(c) whether there has been any decline in exports during this period; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons th r for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) and (b) The foreign trade statistics are compiled on the financial year basis. According to the provisional figures, India's exports during the fiscal year 1989-90 amounted to Rs. 27681 crores as compared to Rs. 20281 crores during 1988-89, thereby showing an increase of 36.5%. During the first quarter of the current financial year i.e., April-June 1990, India's exports amounted to Rs. 7428 crores as compared to Rs. 6039 crores in the corresponding period of previous year, showing an increase of 23.0%.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal to amend Article 171 of the Constitution

386. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the observations of the Division Bench of the Bombay High Court made on 19th January, 1990 that the notification regarding nominations of 12 persons to the Maharashtra Legislative Council virtually frustrates the Constitutional mandate and impropriety also is writ large thereon; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend Article 171 of the Constitution suitably to ensure that powers of nomination are exercised as intended by the framers of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Government, however, feel that a healthy convention requires to b- -stablish d in this b half